



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

edition of Reeves is quoted, but Finlason's edition is universally condemned and does not possess a tithe of authority.

Leaving out Palgrave's denunciation, Messrs. Pollock and Maitland speak with well-nigh final authority. "As for the deliberate fables of later apocryphal authorities, the 'Mirror of Justices' being the chief and flagrant example, they belong not to the Anglo-Saxon but to a much later period of English law. For the more part they are not even false history; they are speculation or satire" (vol. i, p. 28.) In another passage, the author is spoken of as "a romancer," (vol. ii, p. 177), and at a later place, the following occurs: "Once for all we may say that of the Mirror of Justices we shall take no notice. Its account of criminal law is so full of fables and falsehoods that as an authority it is worthless" (vol. ii, p. 478, note 1.)

But these denunciations are as praise compared with the treatment to which the Mirror is subjected in Professor Maitland's masterly introduction to Mr. Whittaker's translation in the Selden Society for 1893 (vol. 7, pp. ix-lv.) Horn, if he be the author, "deliberately stated as law what he knew was not law"; "a quantitative analysis of his work which would accurately distinguish all that is true from all that is false we can hardly make." (p. xxxvii.) "But there we do not know that our author is serious. Is it not all a dream?" (p. xxxix.) "His book is an impersonal book, not because it is scientific, * * * but because he is fantastic and irresponsible." (xlv.) "All is wrong; yes, all. What then shall we say of this book? And what shall we call its author? Is he lawyer, antiquary, preacher, agitator, pedant, faddist, lunatic, romancer, liar? A little of all, perhaps, but the romancer seems to predominate." (p. xlviii.) And finally Professor Maitland says: "The statements of law, that are in it he [the historian] will often construe by 'the rule of contrary,' and he will insert a 'not' whenever the author is more than usually positive. If we are tempted to accept any statement made in the Mirror and not elsewhere warranted, we shall do well to ask ourselves whether we believe that an Englishman called Nolling was indicted for a sacrifice to Mahomet, and to speculate as to what may happen if six centuries hence *The Comic Blackstone* is mistaken for the work of the great commentator." (p. lii.)

To this arraignment Professor Robinson replies, and his reply is the only serious contribution to the question, that the hostile critics are "rather historians and antiquarians than lawyers." (p. xviii.) Of a truth it is indeed "better to err with Pope, than shine with Pye."

In a word the Mirror is of little or no value to lawyer or student and the editor advances no sufficient reason for introducing it to the American Public.

THE LIEN LAW OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK. By William L. Snyder of the New York Bar. 4th edition. New York: Baker, Voorhis & Co. 1903. pp. xxxi, 402.

The fourth edition of a book means popular favor. In this individual case the popular favor is based upon merit, for the book deserves well of the professional public.

The title indicates the nature and extent of the work—the Lien Law of a particular jurisdiction; but Mr. Snyder has embraced within the compass of little more than four hundred pages the provisions of the State dealing with liens upon real estate and personal property, municipal liens, chattel mortgages, conditional sales, liens upon vessels, together with the Rules of the U. S. Supreme Court as to admiralty and maritime liens (pp. 180–201.) Did the book contain nothing more than the text of the law, it would be a useful compilation, but the real value of Mr. Snyder's treatise consists in the intelligent and accurate comment upon the text of the law. The adjudged case is cited in its appropriate place, and the author has incorporated in his notes cases decided and reported as recently as the 175th New York, the 85th Appellate Division and the 40th Miscellaneous Reports.

The difficult subjects of mortgage, pledge, conditional sale are especially well handled and their differences and distinctions well brought out and illustrated (pp. 238–270).

One hundred pages (pp. 275–374) contain a very full and useful collection of forms which make a practical book very practical. The index is more detailed than usual and gives references to the forms as well as the text and notes.

JOHN MARSHALL, COMPLETE CONSTITUTIONAL DECISIONS, EDITED WITH ANNOTATIONS, HISTORICAL, CRITICAL AND LEGAL. By John M. Dillon of the New York Bar. Illustrated with portrait and facsimiles. Chicago: Callaghan & Company. 1903. pp. vii, 799.

This is a companion volume to "Marshall's Life, Character and Judicial Services," three memorial volumes published also by Messrs. Callaghan and reviewed in *THE COLUMBIA LAW REVIEW* of October last. The present volume contains in full every decision rendered by Marshall, twenty-nine in all, in which the interpretation of the Constitution was involved. A careful study of these opinions is absolutely essential to a thorough understanding of the Constitution, and all students must therefore welcome this excellent volume containing in convenient form and with valuable explanatory notes the entire collection of Marshall's Constitutional decisions. In order to add to the usefulness of the volume, there is prefixed to each opinion the head-notes prepared by Justice Curtis as editor of the decisions of the Supreme Court, and which contain a concise and accurate statement of the exact points decided in each case. In view of the fact that nearly every one of the cases decided by Marshall has an interesting historical background, the knowledge of which will add greatly to a better understanding of the case, each opinion is preceded also by explanatory matter showing how the case arose and the facts involved, together with such critical observations concerning the importance of the decision as seemed necessary. These prefatory notes were prepared by Mr. J. F. Dillon, the editor of the Marshall memorial volumes. In foot-notes at the close of each opinion are valuable annotations indicating the extent to which the case has been subsequently referred by historians and publicists or cited by the Court, thus showing the present state of the law on those points with which Marshall dealt.